

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TOKYO 01038 250422Z

63

ACTION SS-25

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R 250400Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7550
INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

S E C R E T TOKYO 1038

EXDIS

FOR EA DEP ASST SEC MILLER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CB
SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN QUESTION

REF: TOKYO 1032

SUMMARY: GKR MIN/COUNS APPROACHED US PRIVATELY
TO OPPOSE THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR RESOLVING THE KHMER QUESTION
AND TO URGE THAT LON NOL BE PERSUADED TO OFFER TO RELINQUISH
POWER TO PAVE WAY FOR NATIONALIST (NON-KHMER ROUGHE) COALITION
GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. KHMER EMBASSY MIN/COUNS SUM MANIT APPROACHED EMBOFF WITH STRONG
PLEA FOR US ACTION ON KHMER QUESTION. MANIT PREFACED DISCUSSION
BY NOTING THAT THAI AMB ANAND TOLD GOJ DURING VISIT TO TOKYO LAST
WEEK THAT THAILAND WOULD BE UNABLE TO SUPPORT GKR AGAIN AT 30TH
UNGA. JAPANESE HAVE INDICATED THAT WITHOUT PROGRESS TOWARD
SOLUTION IN KHMER, THEIR SUPPORT IS ALSO IN DOUBT.

2. MANIT DENOUNCED THE SOLUTION THE FRENCH ARE ESSAYING. TO
REINSTALL A REGIME UNDER SIHANOUK, INEVITABLY THE MONARCHY,
WOULD BE A TRAVESTY AND A TRAGIC END TO FIVE YEARS OF WAR, A
MAIN PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO PRESERVE THE REPUBLIC AND
PREVENT SIHANOUK'S RETURN. TO TRY TO END THE WAR AND PREVENT
A KHMER ROUGE TAKEOVER, MANIT SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT LON NOL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TOKYO 01038 250422Z

RELINQUISH POWER. REMOVAL OF SIHANOUK AND LON NOL FROM

CONTENTION WOULD PERMIT FORMATION OF NATIONALIST (NON-KHMER ROUGE) COALITION GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING SUCH FIGURES AS PENN NOUTH, SIRIK MATAK, AND FERNANDEZ SOSTHENE. ALTHOUGH KHMER ROUGE MILITARY STRENGTH AND POSITION IS ADVANCING, A NATIONALIST COALITION WOULD ATTRACT SUPPORT FROM FAR WIDER SPECTRUM OF KHMER'S POPULATION. WITHOUT SIHANOUK'S CREDENTIALS, THE KHMER ROUGE WOULD LOSE MUCH OF THEIR APPEAL INTERNATIONALLY, INCLUDING IN THE UN.

3. MANIT PROPOSED THAT LON NOL OFFER TO YIELD POWER IN RETURN FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS FOR A COALITION GOVERNMENT. IF OTHER SIDE REFUSED, HE WOULD HAVE LOST NOTHING. IN ANY CASE, SUCH AN OFFER WOULD PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE TO GKR OVER SIHANOUK AND KHMER ROUGE. MANIT NOTED THE TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE THE US HAS IN KHMER AND EXPRESSED HOPE WE WOULD CONSIDER URGING LON NOL TO TAKE SUCH A COURSE.

4. SEPARATELY, MANIT'S WIFE TOLD EMBOFF THAT GKR AMB KOUN WICK AND MANIT DISAGREED AND QUARRELED ON BEST COURSE FOR KHMER. BECAUSE OF THIS DISPUTE AND HEAVY FINANCIAL BURDEN OF TOKYO, SHE SAID THEY EXPECTED TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH IN JULY. OBVIOUSLY, MANIT'S CONVERSATION MUST BE CLOSELY HELD.
HODGSON

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NNN

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